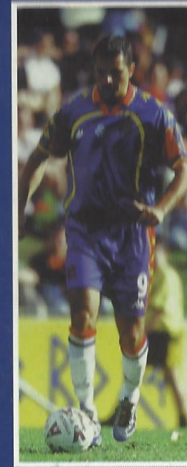
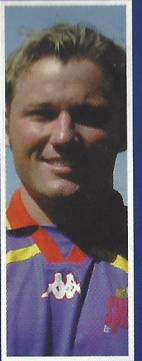
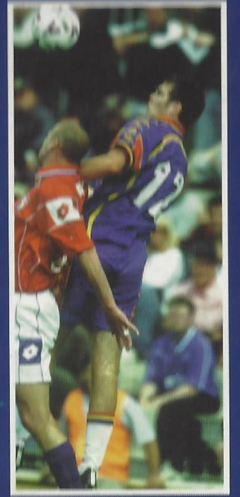


spirit matchday

official matchday program



inside:
the famous five

spirit v sydney olympic

friday october 20
kick-off 7.30pm

\$2.50

northern
spirit



spirit first team



Back Row (l to r): Philip Moss, Tony Perinich, Antonio Faria, John Perosh, Paul Henderson, Matthew Bingley, Noel Spencer, Ryan Griffiths
Middle Row (l to r): Ian Crook (Assistant Coach), Tim Rogers (Fitness Conditioner), Michael Canico, Mark Rudan, Paul Bilokanic, Daniel Watkins, Adam Griffiths, Jacek Sobczyk, Steve Watson (Goalkeeper Coach), Bill Collins (Physiotherapist),
Front Row (l to r): Tony Cranney, Matthew Langdon, Robert Eves, Gabriel Mendez (Team Captain), Graham Arnold (Head Coach), Robbie Slater (Club Captain), Simon Galanzyu, Alex Moorey, Scott Thomas.

a message from david e murray chairman

As Chairman of Rangers Football Club and more recently Northern Spirit, it is with great pride that I welcome you all to this special launch match which marks the joining together of Scottish football and Australian soccer.

We have worked hard over the past 12 years to make Rangers one of the most successful and recognised Clubs in the world. It is this expertise and commitment that we hope will benefit your team, Northern Spirit. The Management and staff of both Northern Spirit and Rangers are committed to making our partnership a success.

Our two Clubs may have roots at opposite ends of the world but today are united to achieve a common goal - to give soccer supporters of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to follow a successful football team.

I assure you, the loyal fans, of our support and dedication aimed at placing Northern Spirit firmly back on the map where it should be - at the top of Australian soccer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelming support and encouragement for our partnership with Northern Spirit.

We hope to continue to grow and develop a family experience and atmosphere at the Stadium beginning with tonight's launch match event. Good luck in tonight's game and for the rest of the season.

David E Murray

Chairman

Northern Spirit and Rangers Football Clubs



contents

In issue 1 of Spirit Matchday you will find:

- Page 4 Read Graham Arnold's view on the new season and more.
- Page 6/7 Spirit Matchday looks at Spirit's new signings, and asks what they think about the season ahead.
- Page 8 Today's squads.
- Page 9 A look at our opposition - Sydney Olympic.
- Page 10 Fans view...if you fancy seeing Spirit play away - here's how!
- Page 11 Dave Mason looks at Spirit's disappointing loss against United last Sunday.
- Pages 12/13 All Spirit's 2000/2001 fixtures in full.
- Page 15 Last season's player stats and tables.
- Pages 16/17 Want a quick quiz? Wordsearches? Then go to our kids pages and try your luck!
- Pages 18/19 Spirit Matchday looks at the role Rangers Football Club will play at Northern Spirit.
- Pages 22/23 Find out how our Youth team fared and upcoming fixtures.
- Pages 24 Spirit 1st Team portrait

And much much more - but only in issue 1 of your very own Northern Spirit matchday programme - Spirit Matchday!



Coach's Column

Welcome to North Sydney Oval for the first home match of the season and it is very exciting to welcome the officials from Scottish giants Rangers Football Club for the first time.

Rangers has taken a 51 per cent stake in the club and injected professionalism, financial stability and a much-needed boost in enthusiasm for the up-coming season.

Last week's result, while disappointing, was encouraging for me in that we played some very good football for long periods of the match.

All we have to do is keep our concentration for the entire 90 minutes and learn to go for the jugular when we have a team on the ropes.

There have been many changes at Northern Spirit this season. The most notable is a significant boost to the squad, brought about by the financial stability Rangers has given us.

We have added experienced NSL campaigners Scott Thomas, Noel Spencer, Chi Chi Mendez and Alex Moreira and exciting teenager Ben Burgess, who has joined the club from English outfit Blackburn Rovers.

It has given us some hardness and experience I believe will help us get that toughness and sharpness that was missing last season.

We have also had a change in captaincy this season. Chi Chi Mendez will take



over as team captain when the side is out on the field. It was a decision that was made along with Robbie Slater who was more than happy to take a step back from on field duties.

Robbie is still the Club Captain and will continue to be the figurehead of the club, as he has done so well for the first two seasons.

It was felt that there was a need for a change and despite some reports Robbie was not undermined by the decision and was involved with the decision. Tonight we take on Sydney Olympic and it brings back mixed feelings for everyone at the club. Who could ever forget that first match at North Sydney Oval when 18,985 people witnessed the birth of this club?

Unfortunately, Olympic spoiled our party and they also got over the top of us last season so we have some revenge to exact tonight.

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Grace Bros -

Sydney City
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Chatswood
Miranda
Macquarie

spirit famous five

Northern Spirit have their very own Famous Five this season - five newcomers who will be looking to make sure this season ends happily ever after.

The five, Alex Moreira, Noel Spencer, Ben Burgess, Scott Thomas and captain Gabriel Mendez, are players brought to the club (in Mendez's case brought BACK to the club) by coach Graham Arnold, as he looks to put last season's disappointing 13th place behind him.

Spirit Matchday caught up with some of the new boys the day after the disappointing away defeat at Sydney United.

SM: What made you move to Northern Spirit?

Gabriel Mendez: I think for me it was the stability at the club with Rangers being involved. It was a good move for my family, and the thought of playing again for this club was very exciting.

Scott Thomas: I needed a change, and the thought of playing in front of big crowds at North Sydney Oval sealed it for me. With Rangers Football Club coming on board I felt that the club would be really going places.

Noel Spencer: A couple of reasons - firstly just the way the club is run so professional, and secondly because of Arnie. The guy has been there and done it and I can learn from him.

Alex Moreira: I wanted to get away from Carlton to be honest, and move up to Sydney. I was delighted when Northern Spirit moved in for me, as it's a club with very good players and very good coaches. I think with Rangers coming on board the club will do very well.

Ben Burgess: My Manager approached me at Blackburn and said there would be the opportunity to get a season of first team football in a good league in Australia and I jumped at it.

SM: Where realistically do you think the Spirit will finish this season?

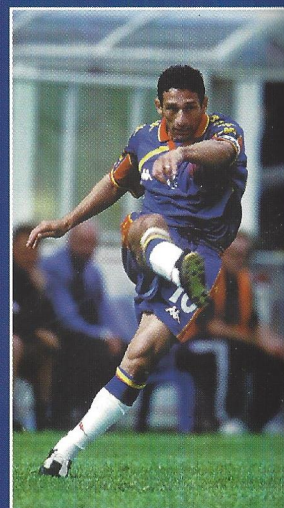
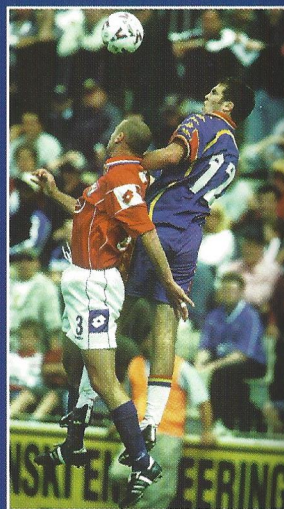
GM: We can be up there for sure - we have a good squad and I think we can make the finals.

ST: I think we can finish in the top four.

NS: Definitely top six.

AM: I hope first!

BB: I think we can make the top six and after you get into the top six it's a bit of a lottery really. We definitely have the players to win the league.



SM: Have you set yourself any personal aims?

GM: I have, but I keep them close to my chest! It's nice to be able to do them and tick them off as you go.

ST: Being injured at the moment my main aim is to get back on the park!

NS: Basically to be a regular starter and contribute from there.

AM: Only personal aim is to score lots of goals!

BB: I don't set myself long term goals. I prefer to get out onto the field and take every match as it comes, put in 100% and do my best in every situation.

SM: How disappointing was Sunday's loss?

GM: It was very disappointing, we did so well in the first half but then just fell away at the end and conceded two goals. It would have been good to get the season off to a win.

ST: It was a really important match for us, and I thought we dominated the first half. In the second though we just fell away - it was really disappointing.

NS: It was probably one of my worst losses of my career. We said afterwards we need to play for 90 minutes and not 45, but for me coming from a successful side last year I knew that it was going to be one of our biggest games of the season. To start with a win is really important, and we weren't able to.

AM: It was disappointing as we played so well in the first half. It was a real shame but we need to get on with it and win tonight against Sydney Olympic.

BB: It was very disappointing. We have to play for the whole 90 minutes and Sunday's game was a bit of a wake up call for us really. The season has started and we need to get it together from Friday night.

SM: Looking forward to playing at NSO?

ST: The crowd are just great, it will make a huge difference having them cheering me on! I just want to get fit and get out there and make an impression.

NS: We need to perform and get the crowds back to what they were in the club's first season. If we can do that it will be great playing in front of big crowds, especially as with Wollongong I wasn't really used to it.

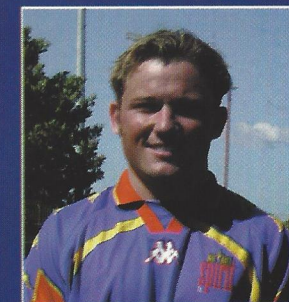
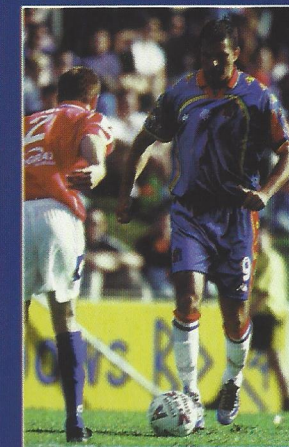
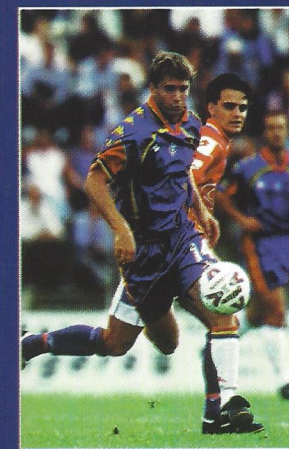
AM: It was one of the big reasons for me in joining the Spirit - I want to do well for the large crowds starting with tonight, and maybe score a goal for them as well.

BB: I can't wait. It is a great crowd ground and hopefully we can put in a great performance and we can get a good crowd.

SM: How does the captaincy sit with you Gabriel?

GM: It is a big honour to be the on-field captain of the club. It's a huge responsibility and I am really looking forward to it.

Spirit Matchday wishes all our new players the very best of luck this season and will have a more in depth look at the new boys - and some old faces too - in each issue as the season progresses.



TODAY'S SQUADS



- 1 John Perosh
 - 2 Michael Cunico
 - 3 Matthew Langdon
 - 4 Matthew Bingley
 - 5 Mark Rudan
 - 6 Scott Thomas
 - 7 Robbie Slater
 - 8 Robbie Enes
 - 9 Alex Moreira
 - 10 Gabriel Mendez
 - 11 Troy Cranney
 - 12 Ben Burgess
 - 13 Phil Moss
 - 14 Noel Spencer
 - 15 Tony Perinich
 - 16 Simon Catanzaro
 - 17 Paul Bilokapic
 - 18 Daniel Watkins
 - 19 Ryan Griffiths
 - 20 Paul Henderson
 - 21 Adam Griffiths
 - 22 Jacek Sobczyk
 - 23 Adam Snyder
 - 24 Tony Faria
 - 28 Ian Crook
 - 30 Graham Arnold
- COACH: Graham Arnold

- Clint Bolton 1
 - Sebastian Sinozic 2
 - Lindsay Wilson 3
 - Paul Kohler 4
 - Scott Baille 5
 - Kresimir Marusic 7
 - Ante Moric 8
 - Troy Halpin 10
 - George Goutzioulis 11
 - Glenn Moore 12
 - Damon Colliana 13
 - Greg Owens 14
 - Dylan MacAllister 15
 - Nick Carle 19
 - John Karoubas 20
 - Peter Zorbas 22
 - Anthony Doumanis 26
- COACH: Branko Culina



No matter what happens in future encounters between these two clubs, Sydney Olympic will always be part of Northern Spirit's history. Just over two years ago now, on the 9th October 1998, 18,985 crammed into North Sydney Oval to witness Northern Spirit make it's NSL debut.

Unfortunately, as they have done on three of the four occasions we've met, Olympic came away with a win, something the Spirit team will be keen to ensure doesn't happen tonight.

Probably more than most, Olympic have been hit by the loss of some key players in the off season, with stars such as Brett Emerton, Pablo Cardozo and our own Gabriel Mendez and Scott Thomas moving on. Coach Branko Culina moved swiftly though to pick up goalkeeper Clint Bolton, as well as the likes of Newcastle pair Glenn Moore and Greg Owens and Harry James from Canberra.

Culina will probably stick closely to the team that was so impressive in defeating the Football Kingz last weekend 2-0. Goalkeeper Bolton made his Olympic debut in that game, while Sebastian Sinozic,

Lindsay Wilson, Paul Kohler, Scott Baillie and skipper Ante Juric formed a strong rear-guard. In midfield former Spirit favourite Kresimir Marusic and new signing Ante Moric both scored goals.

Former Perth Glory star Troy Halpin made up the midfield trio, while up-front another new boy, Greg Owens, partnered the talented Nick Carle. Carle repeatedly tore the Kingz apart on the left-hand side of the field and will need to be watched tonight.

Culina used two substitutes in the game, Dylan MacAllister coming on in the 72nd minute for Owens, and former National Youth League player of the year Anthony Doumanis being brought on in stoppage time for Marusic.

It's a team that has seen its average age reduced dramatically in the close-season, but with a coach like Culina in charge Olympic may yet again make the top six - especially if one of their young strikers steps up and scores some of the goals that Cardozo did.

opposition lowdown



by Julian Floyd

AWAY DAYS TO CONTINUE

Over the past two seasons the fans of Northern Spirit have built a strong reputation for travelling to away matches to follow their team.

During the first season the away matches in NSW and ACT were well attended by Spirit fans and there were two main excursions to Brisbane and Gippsland. The Gippsland trip is now part of folk law and will always be a popular trip in the future.

Last season, a few set out to attend every match throughout the season.

Three of those who managed it were Rebecca Carey, Matthew Koomen and John

McCormack. Close behind were David Koomen and Anthony Osbourne who only missed one game each.

So you're probably thinking we are mad for travelling to most States in Australia and New Zealand to watch Spirit. Most people would have the same opinion, but the football was only a part of the trip.

Of the trips I attended last year I thought that Auckland was special with the group headed out on two planes early on Friday 17th March. Our accommodation was in the CBD of Auckland and close to everything. After check in we headed straight out to an Irish pub, as it was St Patrick's Day and an

opportunity not to be missed. Fully clad in Spirit gear we were mobbed by people wanting to know about the Spirit. Then we headed out to North Harbour Stadium to see the game.

On the way there we stopped off at the Sporting Club outside the ground and met up with the Kingz fans for a beer or two. We got into the ground and watched an entertaining game, trying without much success to out-sing the Kingz fans. We lost the match, but we had a good time and we were then invited to attend the after match function in the Players Lounge. We mingled with a few of the Kiwi fans, gave Wynton Rufer some stick and then left on the bus with the players to head back to the centre of Auckland.

There were also those in Auckland who didn't want to party all night, and settled for sightseeing and quiet nights, having a meal and few beers in a local pub. The choice is yours.

This year one of the major trips of the season will be to Auckland. The Kingz fans have

challenged us to a Supporters match at Ericsson Stadium prior to the main game. This could well be filmed and shown on the Kingz TV show. This trip will be on the weekend of 16th February 2001.

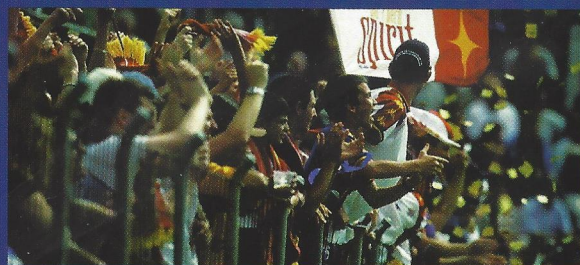
Visit the Northern Spirit fans site for details of all away trips this year. Site Address is www.spiritfans.com. If you do not have internet access, then ring the Northern Spirit Supporters' Committee information line on 02-8250 4004.

(The Supporters Committee will also be organising buses to NSW and ACT matches, with the exception of Parramatta Power and Sydney Olympic)

For further information on anything to do with Northern Spirit, check on

www.northernspirit.com.au

Here you can find the latest information on away games. Coming soon, text updates - read all the action as it happens, be it at WIN Stadium or Ericsson Stadium!



match report with Dave Mason

Sunday October 15th, 2000.

Sydney United 2 (Arambasic 73, 87)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Langdon 6)

Edensor Park. Crowd 4,958

A storming first 60 minutes and a flying start to the season by Matthew Langdon were the positives to come out of a disappointing 2-1 loss to Sydney United at Edensor Park last Sunday.

Langdon was brilliant. He started like a house on fire, finding his way behind the back of the defence after just two minutes only to see his low cross deflect off United defender Danny Burt and onto the post.

Two minutes later he once again found himself in space after an inch perfect switch from Troy Cranney but this time he rounded keeper Brett Hughes and slotted the ball home.

For the rest of the half Spirit continually attacked the United goal with the midfield of Noel Spencer, Chi Chi Mendez and Troy Cranney dominating.

It could easily have been 3-0 at half time and many would argue it should have at least been 2-0 after Mendez was bundled over in the penalty box after rounding the keeper and staring at an open goal.

Mendez was instead booked for diving and received a yellow card. It turned out to be a telling decision by referee Craig Zetter.

After the break Spirit continued to dominate but as the game went on Sydney United could sense a chance and Spirit took its foot off the accelerator.

As has been the case many times for the Spirit it took just one chance for the opposition. This

time it fell to experienced striker Zlatko Arambasic and he found the back of the net with a neat far post header.

At that point Sydney United's gallant side found an extra gear and Spirit had to battle hard to keep them at bay.

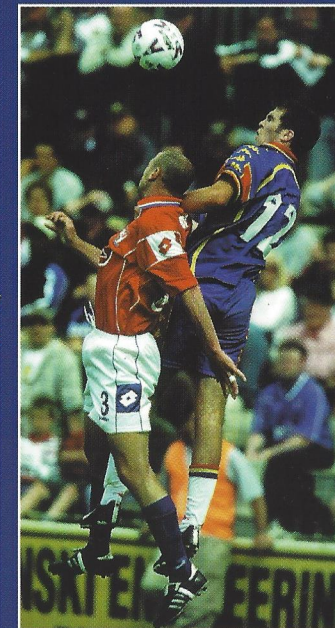
Langdon had a chance to once again fire the Spirit into the lead soon after but he shot directly at the Sydney United keeper in a one on one situation.

Then, with the match approaching injury time Arambasic broke the hearts of the many Spirit fans that travelled to Edensor Park when he got in behind a square Spirit defence and slotted the ball under the body of the advancing John Perosh.

It was a disappointing result but the football was a lot better than it was last year. Let's be positive and hope they can turn things around tonight against Sydney Olympic!

NORTHERN SPIRIT: Perosh, Cunico, Langdon, Enes, Bingley, Mendez, Cranney, Spencer, Bilokapic, Burgess, (Moreira 77), Watkins, (R Griffiths 82).

Yellow cards: Mendez, Bingley, Langdon.





RND	DATE	DAY	TIME	VERSUS	LOCATION
1	15th October	Sunday	3.00pm	Sydney United	Sydney United Sports Centre
2	20th October	Friday	7.30pm	Sydney Olympic	North Sydney Oval
3	28th October	Saturday	7.00pm	Eastern Pride	Mobil Park
4	3rd November	Friday	7.30pm	Kingz FC	North Sydney Oval
5	11th November	Saturday	7.30pm	Newcastle Breakers	North Power Stadium Gosford
6	17th November	Friday	8.00pm	Adelaide City Force	Hindmarsh Stadium
7	24th November	Friday	7.30pm	Perth Glory	North Sydney Oval
8	3rd December	Sunday	TBA	Carlton	TBA
9	8th December	Friday	7.30pm	Marconi Stallions	North Sydney Oval
10	17th December	Sunday	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	Knights Stadium
11	22nd December	Friday	7.30pm	Brisbane Strikers	North Sydney Oval
12	29th December	Friday	7.30pm	Parramatta Power	Parramatta Stadium
13	6th January	Saturday	7.30pm	Canberra Cosmos	North Power Stadium Gosford
14	TBA	TBA	TBA	Wollongong Wolves	WIN Stadium
15	19th January	Friday	7.30pm	South Melbourne	North Sydney Oval

Note: games subject to change in line with live television requirements

RND	DATE	DAY	TIME	VERSUS	LOCATION
16	26th January	Friday	5.00pm	Sydney United	North Sydney Oval
17	4th February	Sunday	6.30pm	Sydney Olympic	Belmore Oval
18	9th February	Friday	7.30pm	Eastern Pride	North Sydney Oval
19	16th February	Friday	7.30pm	Kingz FC	Ericsson Stadium
20	23rd February	Friday	7.30pm	Newcastle Breakers	Breakers Stadium
21	2nd March	Friday	7.30pm	Adelaide City Force	North Sydney Oval
22	10th March	Saturday	7.00pm	Perth Glory	Perth Oval
23	16th March	Friday	7.30pm	Carlton	North Sydney Oval
24	24th March	Saturday	7.00pm	Marconi Stallions	Marconi Stadium
25	30th March	Friday	7.30pm	Melbourne Knights	North Sydney Oval
26	8th April	Sunday	6.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	Suncorp Metway Stadium
27	13th April	Friday	7.30pm	Parramatta Power	North Sydney Oval
28	21st April	Saturday	6.30pm	Canberra Cosmos	Bruce Stadium
29	25th April	Wednesday	3.00pm	Wollongong Wolves	North Sydney Oval
30	29th April	Sunday	3.00pm	South Melbourne	Bab Jane Stadium



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Date of Birth Male ☐ Female ☐

General Admission	Price per Ticket*	Total Saving (incl. membership)	Qty	Amount
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Adult	\$175.55	\$53.50		
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Concession**	\$89.75	\$35.30		
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Grandstand

Adult	\$289.95 ☐	\$71.10 ☐		
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***All prices include GST + \$3.95 Ticketek Booking Fee ** Family Tickets available on a match to match basis

Family = 2 adults & 2 children under 17 (as per concession)
Concession = Full-time student / pensioner / under 17 - born on or after 1st January 1984
Free Admission = Under 6 years.

PAYMENT DETAILS

NB: If you wish to sit in a particular group, all applications must be attached together.

All Season Passes must be made payable to Ticketek Pty Ltd only.

I enclose a cheque or money order made payable to Ticketek Pty Ltd for the amount of \$

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I hereby authorise Ticketek to debit by nominated credit card for the total amount of \$

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Card Number:

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Signature:

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MEMBERSHIP

match statistics

R1 results

13.10.00	Parramatta Power	0 - 2	Marconi Stallions
13.10.00	Adelaide City Force	1 - 3	South Melbourne
14.10.00	Brisbane Strikers	1 - 2	Melbourne Knights
14.10.00	Wollongong Wolves	1 - 1	Perth Glory
14.10.00	Eastern Pride	1 - 1	Newcastle United
14.10.00	Canberra Cosmos	1 - 2	Carlton
15.10.00	Sydney United	2 - 1	NORTHERN SPIRIT
15.10.00	Sydney Olympic	2 - 0	Kingz FC

R2 draw

20-10-00	NORTHERN SPIRIT Vs Sydney Olympic	7:30pm North Sydney Oval
20-10-00	Adelaide City Force Vs Sydney United	8:00pm Hindmarsh Stadium
20-10-00	Newcastle Vs Brisbane Strikers	7:30pm Marathon Stadium
20-10-00	Kingz Vs Eastern Pride	7:30pm Ericsson Stadium
21-10-00	Perth Glory Vs South Melbourne	7:00pm Perth Oval
21-10-00	Marconi Stallions Vs Canberra Cosmos	7:00pm Marconi Stadium
22-10-00	Melbourne Knights Vs Parramatta Power	8:00pm Knights Stadium
22-10-00	Carlton Vs Wollongong Wolves	3:00pm Bob Jane Stadium

TOTAL GAMES PLAYED

Northern Spirit stats (Season 2000/01 first, then Career total)

Figures in brackets are substitute appearances. * career totals

No. 1	John Perosh	1	*82	0	No. 18	Simon Cotanzaro		*17	0
No. 2	Michael Cunico	1	*54	2	No. 17	Paul Bliskapic	1	*148	13
No. 3	Matthew Langdon	1	*48	5	No. 18	Daniel Watkins	1	*53	9
No. 4	Matthew Bingley	1	*227	42	No. 19	Ryan Griffiths	(1)	*12	4
No. 5	Mark Rudan		*101	8	No. 20	Paul Henderson		*44	0
No. 6	Scott Thomas		*124	5	No. 21	Adam Griffiths		*18	0
No. 7	Robbie Slater		*244	57	No. 22	Jack Sobczyk		*21	0
No. 8	Robbie Enes	1	*111	7	No. 23	Adam Snyder		*11	0
No. 9	Alex Moriera	(1)	*65	27	No. 24	Tony Faria		*7	0
No. 10	Gabriel Mendez	1	*113	18	No. 25				
No. 11	Troy Cranney	1	*235	17	No. 28				
No. 12	Ben Burgess	1	*1	0	No. 27				
No. 13	Phil Moss		*37	1	No. 28	Ian Crook		*24	2
No. 14	Noel Spencer	1	*80	3	No. 29				
No. 15	Tony Perinich		*89	22	No. 30	Graham Arnold		*212	7

Next home game
3-11-00 NORTHERN SPIRIT Vs Football Kingz
7:30pm North Sydney Oval

2000/01 Competition ladder

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS	POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	South Melbourne	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	9	Newcastle United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
2	Marconi Stallions	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	10	Eastern Pride	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3	Sydney Olympic	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	11	Northern Spirit	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
4	Carlton SC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	12	Brisbane Strikers	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
5	Melbourne Knights	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	13	Canberra Cosmos	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
6	Sydney United	1	1	0	1	2	1	3	14	Adelaide Force	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
7	Wollongong Wolves	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	15	Football Kingz	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
8	Perth Glory	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	16	Parramatta Power	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

spirit

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spirit

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KIDS
CLUB

northern
spirit
fc

QUICK QUIZ:

Can you get all five questions right in our quick quiz?
They get harder as you go!

1. Which Scottish football club has just taken over Northern Spirit?
2. Which Spirit player will wear the number 18 shirt this season?
3. Which player has Spirit brought over from Blackburn Rovers in the UK?
4. True or False - New Spirit captain Chi Chi Mendez once had a spell at Nottingham Forest?
5. Goalkeeper Paul Henderson was signed from which NSW Super League (now Premier League) team?

Answers: 1 Rangers Football Club
2 Daniel Watkins
3 Ben Burgess
4 False - he had a spell with Notts County
5 Southampton

WORD SEARCH

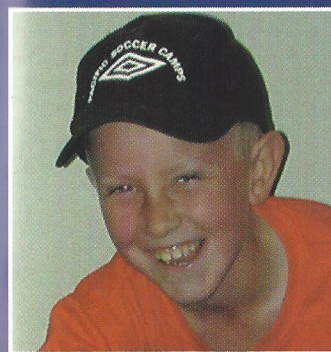
Included in this jumble of letters are the surnames of seven Spirit players named below. The names can appear in any line - vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and can be backwards or forwards! When you've got all seven of the Spirit names, one of tonight's opposition players will be left...

Spirit players:

Moss
Bilokapic
Enes
Faria
Slater
Crook
Bingley

G	N	O	E	S	S	O	M	T
B	I	L	O	K	A	P	I	C
I	X	S	M	F	T	C	H	S
N	Y	E	S	B	C	I	D	L
G	N	N	O	K	K	R	N	A
L	E	E	O	B	W	U	E	T
E	M	O	N	S	E	J	M	E
Y	R	F	A	R	I	A	R	R
C	D	L	O	N	R	A	A	I

Meet the Mascot



Name: Daniel Deblaere
Age: 9
From: Killarney Heights
Favourite Player: Matt Langdon

Answer: Ante JURIC

spirit

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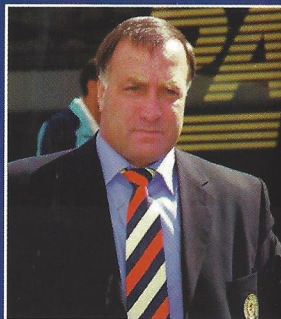
New beginning. New passion. New spirit.

RANGERS & NORTHERN SPIRIT

Spirit Matchday looks at the relationship between Northern Spirit and Rangers Football club. At first glance it seems an unlikely partnership. On one hand we have our beloved Northern Spirit, a club just starting out in its third season of competition. And on the other, we have Scottish champions Rangers Football Club, who won their domestic championship outright for the first time in 1898/99. Little did they know that 100 years later the Spirit would have just completed its first season in Australia's National Soccer League!

That title win over a century ago is just one of 47 championships for the Glasgow-based club, eleven more than arch rivals Celtic. When you consider that in the last 101 years the club has had only ten managers, including the current boss Dick Advocaat, there is a level of stability that clubs all over the world can only dream of.

It's a dream realised by Northern Spirit, following the 51% acquisition of the club by Rangers. Its an acquisition that has not only enabled Northern Spirit to take on a full time Director of Football,

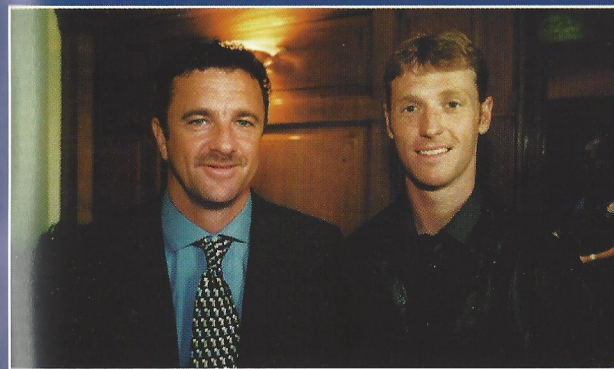


Dick Advocaat

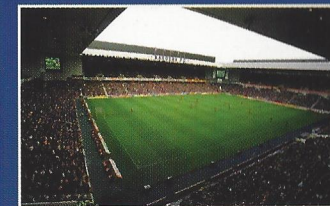
Goalkeeping Coach and Head of Youth Development, but also allowed Head Coach Graham Arnold to fully concentrate on the preparation of the team for the 2000/01 season. Arnold has done just that, bringing back the silky skills of midfield star Gabriel Mendez, who will be Spirit's new on-field captain this season, as well as also bringing in Noel Spencer, Ben Burgess, Scott Thomas and Carlton hitman Alex Moreira. Although financial backing is one thing, Rangers haven't taken the easy



Rangers 1st Team



Graham Arnold with Craig Moore (Socceroo and RFC Defender)



Ibrox Stadium

option of just throwing money at the club. Instead, they have brought their own people over to Sydney, headed by new General Manager Colin Mitchell. The success Rangers Football Club has had in the past century shows they are no fools. Rangers and Northern Spirit Chairman David E Murray, whose son will be present tonight for our game against Sydney Olympic, has already indicated that it's not only a family atmosphere he wants at North Sydney Oval, but success for the club both on and off the field. Indeed, while things look rosy off the field, ultimately the success of any football club must be what happens on the field. By freeing the restraints of last season with their commercial and financial backing, Rangers Football Club are allowing Northern Spirit to re-focus on on-field matters and bring the crowds flocking back to North Sydney Oval. It may look like an unlikely partnership, but its one that in the long term will hopefully prove beneficial to both clubs.

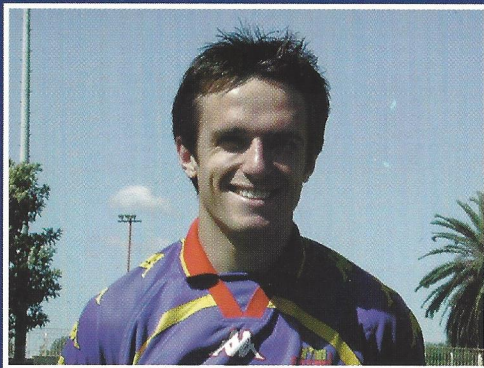


Craig Moore

player profile

Each issue Spirit Matchday will profile one of the Northern Spirit players, to find out what they REALLY think!

This week we look at Michael Cunico.



Michael Cunico

Nickname: Coons
Height: 185cm
Weight: 82kg
Date of Birth: 17.3.79
Place of Birth: Wollongong
Signed from: Marconi
Previous Clubs: A.I.S.
Position: Midfield/Defender
Squad Number: 2

Favourite meal: Spaghetti
Favourite drink: Water
Favourite band: Too many to mention
Loudest teammate: Robbie Slater (said without a moment's hesitation!)
Worst dresser at club: I really don't want to offend anyone...

Best player in the NSL (excluding Spirit players):

Damien Mori or Troy Halpin

Who will win this year's comp (excluding Northern Spirit): Perth Glory

Favourite player in your position: Marcel Desailly of Chelsea

Favourite player in the world: Rivaldo

Most like to meet (dead or alive): Jesus Christ

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national youth league

Northern Spirit will be fielding a Youth Team in the National Youth League - Northern Division once again this season, although not a Colts Team. Instead the Spirit have adopted a policy that, goalkeepers apart, the Youth team will consist of only under 19 players.

Spirit's new Head of Youth Development, Ian Crook, says that although this may mean some games are lost due to a lack of experience, the club are concerned with a more long-term view.

"Ideally our aim is that in maybe three years seven or eight of our boys now will be in the Northern Spirit first grade squad. If we can do that we will be succeeding," Crook said.

Although insisting results didn't really matter, the Youth Team did go one better than the First Team on the weekend, defeating Sydney United 3-2 with goals from Nick Vasili, Todd Macrae and Simon Catanzaro. At 3-0 down just after halftime it looked like being a comfortable win for Spirit, but a send-off reduced them to 10

men and Sydney United clawed back two goals.

Crook was delighted with the win, and praised his young team which contained three 16 year-olds and two 17 year-olds.

"With the 16 year-olds, the thing is we can work with them for basically three years at this level. As a coach that's great, and as I say hopefully they will go on and play for the First Grade Team."

Crook, who admitted he is thoroughly enjoying the role, will continue to assist first grade coach Graham Arnold on match days, but for the rest of the week is busy looking after the young players.

So what about stars of the future? Well, Crook refuses to name names for fear of pressuring the players, but says there are a number of players that the club are very excited about. Hopefully we will be seeing them turn out for the first team very soon!

Check out Spirit Matchday each issue for the latest Youth league news, and get along to support the lads whenever you can. The next set of fixtures can be found below.

R2	21st October	Saturday 4.00 pm	Sydney Olympic Youth Christie Park
R3	28th October	Saturday	BYE
R4	3rd November	Friday 5.15 pm	NSWIS North Sydney Oval*

*Before first team game against the Football Kingz.

Back Row (l to r): John Magerush, Derek Kane, Tom Benge, David Brackell, Jacob Rea, Lloyd Robinson, Alex Wilkinson, Todd Macrae, Peter Folia
Middle Row (l to r): Brad Grimson, James Monie, George McLean, Matthew Hunter, Luke Fennie, Michael Penrice, Richard van der Vyver, Peter Anker, Matthew Enge
Front Row (l to r): Monte Penrice, Luciano Benito, Adam Monteleone, Mark Channel (Assistant Coach/Manager), Ian Crook (Head Coach, Youth Development), Ross Kettle, Nicholas Vasili, Ismael Aweria.



spirit youth team

spirit

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